



Speech By  
**Trevor Watts**


**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 February 2019

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Crime Stoppers**

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (2.35 pm): I rise to speak about the 30th anniversary of Crime Stoppers Queensland, a great organisation that over its history has seen over 100,000 charges brought and 39,000 offenders arrested. Tomorrow will be a dark day for Crime Stoppers when the last call will be made to Crime Stoppers in Queensland. Why is that? It is because this Labor government would not support it when it needed extra funding of \$250,000 and has now slashed a million dollars from Crime Stoppers. It will be reduced to one staff here in Queensland. Trevor O'Hara has led the call centre team so successfully.

I will give members a brief history of Crime Stoppers Queensland. For many years from 1989 calls were taken by a small, dedicated number of police. They had an 18 per cent report-to-arrest ratio. Then calls were transferred to the mass call centre, where the report-to-arrest ratio was halved, to nine per cent. In 2014 calls were transferred to a dedicated Crime Stoppers centre, run by 20 paid staff and 40-odd volunteers. The report-to-arrest ratio was increased to 16.5 per cent. It took some 60,000 calls a year, 20,000 of which were intelligence calls. Intelligence calls might take between 20 minutes and an hour and a half. Obviously that led to a great deal of arrests and a reduction in crime in our community.

It is a great shame that the Labor government will not support this great organisation and has gutted the funding out of it. The Crime Stoppers number will now divert to the Policelink call centre. I hope that none of the 60,000 calls a year will be missed and that no crucial pieces of information from the 20,000-odd intelligence calls are missed. When they are missed, crime will go up. We know that the Labor government has slashed the Police budget by \$44.6 million whilst crime is going up. This is just a further example. This change will put a burden on Policelink, which does not have the resources to cope with it. I hope that the million dollars is directly transferred into that budget to try to help, but there is no way it will be able to take the same volume of calls to the same level of detail or achieve a report-to-arrest ratio of 16½ per cent. It is a terrible shame for the people of Queensland when we are facing a crime crisis under this minister.